

Fitchburg State College

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Alarming issues in Aubuchon

by AnneMarie Donahue

On Monday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m., Aubuchon residents met in the main lounge to discuss fire alarms for the second time. At the first meeting, held on Oct. 6, Aubuchon residents were told that the person suspected of pulling the alarms was probably someone they knew. At this new meeting the staff present insisted, "We know you know who it is!"

Matt Scott, director of Aubuchon Hall, began the meeting by giving a few facts to the residents in attendance. "So far there have been 14 fire alarms." According to Scott, this has cost the city of Fitchburg \$7,000. "If it continues, it will cost each student," warned Scott. Students have not yet been charged for the false alarms that have been pulled but, should the problem persist, they will be held accountable for the cost, Scott said.

Dr. Charles Ratto, vice president of Student Affairs, said that these alarms

were "not acceptable," adding, "We're mad as hell about it!" Ratto then went on to say, "We've never had these problems in Aubuchon before. This building has the worst damage record on campus." The vice president spoke to the group telling them that Dr. Michael Riccards, president of FSC, has had enough. He urged everyone to be responsible for their actions and the actions of their guests. "We need your help," he said.

Anne Coyne, dean of Student Affairs, then addressed the audience. She told them about a proposal before the Campus Advisory Board to charge students for fire alarms. If passed, this proposal could cost students up to \$50 for every



Aubuchon, home of the infamous fire alarms

photo by staff

fire alarm.

Dean Coyne did have an upside to her speech. "We are offering \$1,000 for any information that leads to the arrest and conviction" of the person or persons pulling the alarms, she said. Another idea was to put covers over the fire alarms, so they would sound a local alarm before

the actual alarm would sound.

"How effective will the covers be? Does it give you an extra second, or is it more complex?" was one question that was asked about the effectiveness of the

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Phi Sigma Sigma shines in the Five Star System

by Jen Brenner

Phi Sigma Sigma is the leader for the Five Star System, with a total of 48 stars. These stars have been earned by taking part in a variety of social events, educational events, and community-service projects.

Several members of this organization participated in the Diabetes Walk held in Worcester and the Breast Cancer Walk held in Boston. They also volunteered at the battered women's shelter on "Make a Difference Day." The other main community service project that they have earned stars for is Maximum Mini Golf. One member of Phi Sigma Sigma contributed to this event by helping set up the equipment

and also by participating in the event. Phi Sigma Sigma has also earned stars for a number of social and educational programs.

The sorority has held an arts and crafts night, an ice-cream social, a phantom tea, and a movie night. Members of the organization also hiked Mt. Monadnock earlier this semester. The main educational programs that the group has dealt with have concerned breast-cancer, health and wellness.

As of Nov. 6, the other leaders of the Five Star System included Programs Committee with 45 stars, Masspir - Hunger and Homelessness Committee with 28 stars, and Sigma Sigma Sigma with 27 stars.

Keep up the good work!

'Hard Times': A Dickens of a play

by Presley Reece

The English department's presentation of Charles Dickens' "Hard Times" began Wednesday night, Nov. 11, at 8 in the McKay School auditorium. Performances ran through the weekend, and will continue Nov. 18 through 21. The play, directed by Richard McElvain, can be seen at 8 p.m. at McKay, with an additional 2 p.m. matinee on Nov. 21.

Tickets cost \$7; \$5 for students; \$3 for senior citizens.

Smokeout: No butts about it

by Stacy Bright
RN, BSN, Health Educator

Smoke your "butts" off for the last time!!! Please join Fitchburg State College Student Health Services and The American Cancer Society by participating in the Great American Smokeout on Nov. 19, from 9 am to 2 pm, in the G-Lobby.

Next to Thanksgiving it's the most famous Thursday in November and a great opportunity to quit smoking for just 24 hours, or lend a hand to someone on this special day.

Adopt a loved one to show your

support. Highlights will include lung capacity testing, survival kits, and a free lunch for those who commit to quit.

Carbon monoxide testing will be available at Health Services the following day for individuals who quit for 24 hours. It's one holiday no one has to spend alone. The American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout is celebrated each year by millions of smokers. Make November 19th, Smokeout Day, a big holiday in your life!! Reap the benefits of a raffle prize on the only day being a quitter is a reward!



Hurry now to avoid big debt later

by Ajayi Harris

A small provision in the big student aid bill could mean big savings for students at Fitchburg State College.

In the bill being signed by President Clinton last month, MASSPIRG's Higher Education Project pushed Congress to extend the lower interest rates that are in effect for new student loans to apply to old loans too. "If you are already sitting on a pile of loans from the last few years, you could save a \$1,000 by refinancing at the lower interest rate," said MASSPIRG Chapter Chair, Sean Norton. "Congress has only allowed this refinancing for a short period of time, so MASSPIRG is recommending all students with a lot of loans to check it out right away."

A student who consolidates \$20,000 in loans will save over \$1,000 when they get in to repay

ment. The drop in the interest rate is from 8.25% to 7.46%. Students who have larger loans or students who are stuck in repayment for longer will benefit even more from the interest rate drop.

The provision is part of an overall reduction in the interest rates for student loans, but because of lobbying by the loan industry, the low interest rate on consolidation, or refinanced loans, is only available until January 31, 1999. Also because of objections from the loan industry, the consolidation offer is only available to students who have already graduated, or students who have loans from the William Ford Direct Loan Program.

Students can call the Loan Consolidation Network at 1-800-557-7392 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm EST to find out more about how to consolidate student loans.

'Blitz Build' postponed

by Andrew McCrillis - N.A.H.B.

Due to circumstances beyond the control of our National Association of Home Builders Student Chapter and the Worcester Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, the "Blitz Build" project, which was originally scheduled for November 21 & 22, 1998, has been postponed. The new date for the "Blitz Build" is Saturday and Sunday, December 12 & 13, 1998. Problems continue with the removal of ledge from the construction site where the foundation is scheduled to go. As work progresses, we will keep you informed.

For those who are still interested in

helping the Habitat for Humanity, there is a house in progress in the city of Gardner. The Associated Builders and Contractors (A.B.C.), are actively involved in building this house. This project is an on-going project and is held every Saturday in Gardner, and is planned to be finished before the December holidays. For more information, you can contact Marc Moschella, President of A.B.C., at 343-8899, or attend any N.A.H.B. meeting, Thursdays in Room 109 at 1:30 (all College Period) in the Industrial Arts Building, or contact Mr. James Andrews at extension 3385.

**It's not too late to join The Point!
Just call 665-3647**

Alarms *Continued from cover*

covers over alarms as a deterrent to false pulls.

"They work really well," Scott insisted. Scott told the crowd that he had used the same mechanisms in a previous situation elsewhere and they were successful in cutting down false alarms.

Many other students had ideas of their own, which ranged from forming "neighborhood watches" to babysitting the fire alarms, to buying and equipping each alarm with a camera to monitor actions near the alarms. While praised as a sound idea, it would cost Aubuchon residents a considerable amount of money and would prove ineffective after the cameras were damaged by rowdy students.

"I'm going to recommend to the board of directors that you be charged," State Fire Marshal Paul McCarthy, an alumni of FSC, told the students. In his talk, he stressed the importance of being responsible for one's own actions. He said that if a firefighter were to be killed while

responding to a false alarm, then the person who pulled it, when caught, would be charged with manslaughter. Manslaughter is a very serious charge and this new information would hopefully give the students responsible for the false alarms a scare into just how serious what they're doing can be.

"How do you feel having to be here again tonight?" Dean Coyne asked, eager to get feedback from the students who are likely just as frustrated by the nightly exercises as the faculty. Many of the students snickered about how they were "sick of this" while others just rolled their eyes believing "that the kid doing it isn't here, so we shouldn't even bother." One student commented on the immature actions of the individual(s) responsible and the bad image it gives all Aubuchon residents by saying, "I feel like I am back in high school."

The office of Student Affairs would like any information that relates to this issue.

Depression is a serious threat to anyone that has a brain.

Depression is a suppression of brain activity that can strike anyone. It can make life unbearable, but it is also readily, medically treatable. And that's something you should always keep in mind.

Public Service message from S.A.V.E. (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education)

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AmeriCulture Arts Festival returning

by Niovel Nadira Hidalgo

A meeting for the AmeriCulture Arts Festival will be held at 6:00 p.m. on November 23, at Ellis White Lecture Hall in the Hammond Building. The main purposes of this meeting will be to review the feedback from participants from this past year's festival, to discuss the proposal process and to share information about Festival '99, which will take place in the Fall of '99. The theme for this year's festival is "American Pastimes."

Festival '99 wants to enhance and stress that America is made up of all cultures, and not only one. Kelly Morgan, Artistic Producer of the ACAF, says that the point of the festival is to see how different people celebrate

their pastimes. This year's festival wants to explore and celebrate the diversity of America by exploring how it feels like to be an American.

Among the programs the ACAF hopes to feature are the weekend dances to be held at various locations in the community. One weekend the ACAF will present an Irish dance, other weeks would include a Hispanic dance, an African dance, and so on. Representative foods from the cultures featured will be served, and instructors will teach participants how to dance the different dances. The purpose of the dances is to have a good time and see how people celebrate in their own culture. Another proposed activity will have senior citizens teach participants how to fish. Participating students will

interact with, learn, and see how senior citizens pass their time.

Other ACAF presentations will include "Waiting Rooms," a play about what people talk about in a hospital emergency room, or in a school's principal's office; "Happy Hour," a 5-8 minute skit about what people do in their after work happy hour; and "The Dark House," which will have the audience walk from room to room and see the different things happening in each room, for example such as romantic interludes, teenagers snorting cocaine and talking, and someone beating up a person from a different race.

Kelly Morgan wants to invite EVERYONE to attend this meeting. Faculty members, high school students, staff members, college students, and community people all are welcome to

attend. He eagerly encourages people from different ethnic backgrounds and disabilities to come to the meeting, as well as people who want to write for the Festival. He seeks to create more opportunities for organizations that represent the American culture. "We need to let people know what this festival is all about so they can plan their schedule for the summer," he said.

The meeting will also discuss the different opportunities for students who want to participate in the Festival, such as the availability of rooms on campus, scholarships, paid positions, potential courses for which people can earn credit for working for the Festival, etc. Working for the festival will look great on your resume and will give you the opportunity to be creative, and to interact and learn from other people.

Masspirg readies for National Hunger and Homelessness Week

by Andrea Felix and Tara Gauthier

With these words, the crowd exploded into cheers that didn't end for minutes afterwards. For us, this panel brought the reality and scope of homelessness to an "it is in my backyard" issue. Throughout the four day conference we were crammed full of panels, workshops, and guest speakers. This event, titled "Faces of the Homeless", was probably the most lasting experience that we encountered on our Midwestern adventure.

Sponsored by the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness (NSCAHH), this conference took place in Madison, Wisconsin from October 15th to the 18th, bringing together hundreds of students from across the country. All of the students who attended the conference were



Tara Gauthier, Andrea Felix, and Kate Mehr

brought together, for this momentous occasion, through the common bond of putting a stop to the long-standing issues of hunger and homelessness in our own communities. Not only were we from all walks of life, but we were also all at different stages during our crusades—some people had been chipping away at these problems in their communities for years, while others just heard about the conference from word-of-mouth—

and somehow, found the funding to get ourselves to Madison. Regardless of how or when we got to our final destination, or if we would keep in touch after the conference, the one thing that drove all of us to the University of Wisconsin, Madison—wasn't because it's the beer capital of the country or to get one of those wicked cool cheese-head hats—was because we were all

The Point

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PRODUCTION MANAGER

Charrington Hicks

ASST. PRODUCTION MANAGER

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NEWS EDITOR

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Adanna Agbo

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Niovel Hidalgo

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All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to a *Point* article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The content of any article labelled Opinion does not necessarily represent the views of the *Point*, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

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Ryan speaks some harsh truth

by Michael McGonigle

In his speech last Tuesday, sports-writer Bob Ryan of The Boston Globe expressed a grim outlook for the popularity of such mainstream professional sports as football, basketball, baseball, and hockey in America. Although he's an intelligent man, many sports fans would like not to think of the inevitable end of our precious pastimes.

To get the ball rolling, Ryan began his speech by discussing his new book, "Four Seasons." It is about the four most memorable seasons that Boston sports franchises had. First, he discussed the 1967 Red Sox, which most of the audience was too young to remember, and Ryan recanted his past. Next he continued with the teams of old, recalling the fantastic season of the 1971-72 Bruins. They too are an old team to remember, but being a Boston sports fan, one could never forget NHL great #4, Bobby Orr. He captivated the hearts of all sports fans with his drive for the game of hockey. Remember that famous photo? Orr is in front of the net, mid-flight after scoring the game-winning goal to win the Stanley Cup. Now that is faantastic!

Though the teams of old have outshined our present, Ryan chose the 1985-86 Celtics. Who could ever forget the legendary Larry Bird? With the audience at attention, he recalled the glory of that season. Most of us could feel a time in our lives where we were proud of a franchise, and proud we were from Massachusetts. We wore it like a badge of honor. Finally he discussed the 1996 Patriots. There wasn't much glory to remembering the failures of this ill-fated team.

"In a city of franchises, Boston has been bestowed with legendary players

since 1925...We've had players like Eddie Shore to Ray Bourque, from Bob Cousy to John Havlicek," said Ryan. While this remains true, Ryan also stated that "Boston is a city of rich sports tradition."

With all this said, Ryan held a Q & A session to the audience's delight. He fielded many questions, and the ones he felt more passionate about were obvious. Someone in the audience asked, "Do you think the NBA will play this season?" Ryan chronicled over 25 years of Celtic basketball, and his feelings on the subject showed. He answered as best he could, "Doubtful". He went on to explain that the NBA players are "..overpaid, way overpaid!", along with all professional sports athletes. The one disturbing fact that he chose to expose was that all this money is turning fans off. "It costs \$200 to take your family out for a night," said a disturbed Ryan. "These players want more money..." and Ryan believes that the everyday people are hurt in the long run.

In closing, he emulated that many Americans are beginning to care less and less about team sports and are becoming more focused on extreme sports. Here are three examples of how our emotions differ with the past and present. How did YOU feel when Boston College's Doug Flutie completed that pass to Phelan to upset the Miami Hurricanes in the early 80's? How did YOU feel when Red Sox first baseman Bill Buckner let the ball go



Sportswriter Bob Ryan, left

between his legs, which later on allowed the 'Sox' to lose the 1986 World Series? So sports fans, how do YOU feel about the N.E. Patriots' woes this season? Most likely you will have mixed emotions on all three questions. This is sad, but it proves Ryan's point.

After the speech, I asked Ryan if he thought the sports industry could re-establish a fan base like the past. He went on to say that fan loyalty isn't much of a concern anymore. "It's all about business, and making money these days," said Ryan in a sad tone of voice. For the sake of sports, we should all hope he's wrong. Only time will tell if professional sports will ever have players like Larry Bird again. Ryan recanted a quote from Larry. "I always looked at Bobby Orr's number during the National Anthem. By the time I retired, I wanted to be remembered by Boston's fans the way he was." The outlook doesn't look good for professional sports, we can only hope that the athletes of the future will care more about the fans and the game, than their own greed.

Hunger *Continued from pg 4*

HUNGRY FOR CHANGE!!

Our hunger was not only sparked by having to travel eight hours through many different airports and time zones. But, some of the featured speakers made us feel as though we could walk right outside and with the wave of a hand and stomp of a foot could feed the hungry and shelter the homeless. Which speakers, you ask, could make us feel and believe that we could accomplish such a feat? In no particular order they included, but weren't limited to: Madison City Council President, Tim Brewer; Wisconsin State Representative, Tammy Baldwin; Acting President and CEO of Second Harvest, Martha Pickett; Executive Director of NSC-AHH, Julie Miles; and White House Fellow (no, she's not an intern!) and Special Assistant to Dan Glickman of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Kate Mehr.

Kate Mehr not only spoke to us in a way that captivated our full attention, but she also indicated that as students we have a special ability. We are in a time of our lives where change can be initiated, we aren't under the eagle eye of an employer to do what is best for our company, and we also are in touch with the community in which we live and know what needs to be changed. For these reasons, not to mention that we have age on our side, Kate stated that if anything is going to happen, then it would begin with the student population.

Since listening to Kate and having attended the rest of the conference, we have a renowned sense of what to do and how to go about doing it. The National Hunger and Homelessness Week happens November 15th-21st everywhere in the U.S., including here at Fitchburg State. If you would like to become an instrumental part of this week's events or are just looking for something "good to do" then contact the MASSPIRG office at x4710 or Andrea Felix at x5828. We look forward to working with each and every one of you to make this event the best that FSC has ever seen!



Love is 'The Art of Peace'

by Jessica Roy

With the winds of change blowing, it's nice to know one thing in life stays constant: love. Love's energy continues to, and will always, perpetuate throughout time and spaces. Whether it is love for a sister, brother, cat or yourself; love is a force in life everyone can embrace on some self-fulfilling level.

Love lifts nations up from oppression and internal explosion. Gandhi's non-violent resistance is proof of one's ability to exalt a country using love, and bring it out of both the external repression of Britain and India's private civil war between the Muslims and Hindus. Gandhi uplifted his people through love, dedication and patience. Gandhi showed the world that love could sprout up virtually out of nowhere and change history. In, "The Art Of Peace," written by Morihei Ueshiba, one of history's greatest material artists, he makes reference to love growing out of the most undesirable places. "Your heart is full of fertile seeds, waiting to sprout. Just as a lotus flower springs from the mire to bloom splendidly, the interaction of the cosmic breath causes the flower of the spirit to bloom and bear fruit in this world."

Gandhi's love for his people and nation is very inspiring. In my life, love holds a very important role. It brings me closer to enlightenment, though I doubt enlightenment can be obtained in one lifetime, especially mine. It also brings me closer to other beings on this earth.

Love is a tool with which I connect on many levels with people. Love is an extremely flexible emotion. You can mold it into virtually any shape to fit your needs. I love my pet cat Cloe. I love my best friend Mia. I love my mother and father. I practice very different kinds of love in each of these situations, yet no way of love is unequaled to another. What other

The creed of "The Art of Peace" is to manifest Divine Love, a spirit that embraces and nurtures all things.

emotion holds that depth of flexibility?

The very foundation and backbone of peace rests in love. The creed of "The Art of Peace" is to, "manifest Divine Love, a spirit that embraces and nurtures all things." In this peace we can find solace and healing. Ueshiba describes peace as, "Medicine for a sick world. There is evil and disorder in the world because people have forgotten that all things emanate from one source. Return to that source and leave behind all self-centered thoughts, petty desires, and anger. Those who are possessed by nothing possess everything."

There is disorder and chaos in this world. We are consumed by the need for tangible objects. Why are you going to Fitchburg State College? I don't think many of you can honestly answer, "Because I would like to become more enlightened and free myself from physical needs and desires." That's not what colleges are set up for. If we want spirituality, we meditate or go to a church, synagogue or temple.

Many people would answer, "So I can get a good paying job." Granted, it is very difficult to make your way in life with a family without a degree. College is in part, a means to an end for that very purpose. While you are here at FSC, try to make an effort to open yourself to the art of peace. It's free, requires no ticket or membership card and can give you a perspective on life you may have overlooked or never thought possible for your life. It might help lighten the blow, the winds of change are inflicting on your life.

Leadership Academy needs major overhaul

by Anonymous

The Leadership Academy, replacing the Honors program at F.S.C., has already brought about a large number of complaints from its participants.

Granted, this is the first semester for the program. But that is no excuse for the lack of awareness among the general faculty about the program, nor the uneasiness of the students involved. Although the founders have been planning the program for over a year, most teachers are just learning about it now. This makes it difficult for the students when discussing with their advisors the different requirements they have.

The first major problem is students' perceptions of the purpose of the Leadership Academy. Many students think the college cares only about its own image to the state. One student said, "F.S.C. seems to like to use the word "leadership" to look good for the school more than actually nurturing leaders."

This program is very disorganized, almost as if the staff running it is making up the rules as time progresses. Questions take about a week to answer,

Fitchburg State College

The Leadership College



The FSC motto

and the answer is never very clear. One would imagine that the coordinators who founded the Leadership Academy would know something about how this program is run.

A major fear these students face is the new grading proposal. Currently, to stay in the Leadership Academy, students must maintain a 3.3 grade point average (GPA). If the proposals are made policy, all students would only be graded with a letter, no pluses or minuses. This would mean that instead of keeping a 3.3 GPA (B to B+), students would have to get more A's, which would have the effect of raising the 3.3 requirement to what is now known as about a 3.6 GPA. This would have some students struggling beyond capacity, while others would be forced to drop out of the program.

Don't misunderstand me: I agree with raising academic standards. I don't think the proposals should be

Continued, pg 7



What do you think of The Point?

"The grammar thing. Definitely needs work." - Suzanne Robinson



"It's good to hear the opinions of the student. It's a good source of information for what's going on in school...when I read it." -Lisa Nobrega



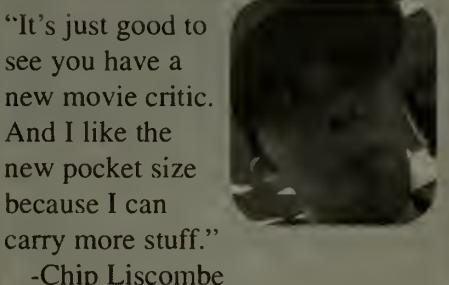
"It's a good paper. Leave me alone. I've got a big test." -Jay Bramble



"Go *%& yourself, Zac." - Mike Shine



"Maybe if they delivered it to mailboxes, I'd bother to read it." -Lisa Kane



"It's just good to see you have a new movie critic. And I like the new pocket size because I can carry more stuff." -Chip Liscombe

Leader Continued from pg 6

changed just because the school's "top" students are having a tough time. The raised standards are intended to foster a work ethic in the students, enabling us to continue after leaving F.S.C. to face the challenges that will undoubtedly be even tougher. However, those in power ought to open their eyes to the anxiety of the students, and get together and at least discuss a reasonable structure for this program that will bring as many students back into the program with the new proposals as it would before.

Another huge problem is the lack of information and guidance, as well

This program is very disorganized, almost as if the staff running it is making up the rules as time progresses.

as personal communication the students receive. Some of the requirements are unclear to the students. The classes are mostly a reiteration of the useless, banal material everyone has learned since middle school. These students were specifically picked for their leadership potential. Do they really need to have the psychology of leaders, as well as how leaders should act drummed into their heads with every leadership class? If they already have the natural ability to understand what leadership is, wouldn't it be more beneficial to teach them fundamental academics instead of redundant leadership rhetoric? Life experiences can't be taught.

Any sane person would have to agree, after close inspection of this program, that someone needs to address these issues and get some feedback as to how this program could improve. It seems like the Leadership Academy has no direction, isn't invested enough in the future of the students, and is instead as bureaucratic and impersonal as the rest of the school.

I never met a turkey I didn't eat!

by Jessica Roy

Vegetarians, get off your high horse for one day and eat a turkey!

I have always loved turkey! In fact I think I should bottle the chemical in turkey that makes people sleepy and relaxed. I would make a fortune!

Everything about turkey is great. It doesn't make you fat, unlike all the vegetarian side dishes like stuffing, pies, mashed potatoes, rolls and green bean casserole. It's filling too. One big ole drumstick and you are set for at least three days.

And just think about all of the tradition surrounding the turkey. It was almost our country's national bird. Thank goodness Ben Franklin didn't have his way, I like the eagle much better. It's slightly more dignified than a silly, gobbling turkey.

What would Thanksgiving be without a turkey? It simply would not be the same to plaster together a massive

mound of tofu, shaped like a bird and call it Thanksgiving. There is no way in hell any pilgrims brought soybean sculptures to the Native Americans. So why stray from tradition?

Even the wishbone has ancient roots. In early Rome they used the wishbone of a hen as a sort of oracle bone, to help foresee the future. When Rome took over England years ago, they adopted the tradition and brought it to the Americas.

Thanksgiving is a very important day aside from all the traditions which surround the table. When else can we stuff ourselves like gluttonous pigs and fall asleep in the couch for the rest of the day? We need Thanksgiving turkeys. We need one day of fat-filled living. Everyone could use some of mom's gravy here and there, lumps and all.

Like Adam Sandler said in his "Thanksgiving Song," "Everyone loves to eat turkey." And turkeys love to be

There is no way any Pilgrims brought soybean sculptures to the Native Americans.

eaten. They cook up so beautifully. What other creature looks more beautiful on the dinner table than a turkey? Turkey is the only animal that is far more lovely when it is golden brown and crispy, then when it is running its stupid, ugly head off in the barn yard.

As for the ethics of it all, one day of the year will not kill you to indulge in eating turkey. It is actually very beautiful to allow another one of Mother Earth's creatures to nourish you and give you energy to create beauty and goodness in this world. See, it's not so terrible when you think about it.

Eating a bird as lovely as the turkey can only benefit you and the people you love. There can be no family brawls if everyone is exhausted from eating turkey all day long. Turkeys promote world peace. Let us indulge and give peace a chance, if not for your sake, do it for the tradition of Thanksgiving.



Why they never made a movie about a waterboy before

by Robin E. Sandberg

The Waterboy

2 1/2 stars out of 5

Every once and a while I try out the run-of-the-mill comedy and sometimes I am actually surprised to find genuine humor. Apparently, "The Waterboy" was not one of those times. The movie began with Bobby Boucher (Sandler), a lonely waterboy, who at 31-years-old who lives in the swamps with his over-protective mother (Kathy Bates). The only way that Bobby has any contact with the outside world is serving water to the local college football team that continually makes fun of him, and the coach takes the player's side.

His life changes when he gets a new coach (Henry Winkler- also known as Fonzie from "Happy Days"), who, when the players make fun of Bobby, tells him to stand up for himself. This is when Bobby leashes out all of his pent up anger and becomes the fiercest tackler on the team. His mama doesn't

want him to play or have anything to do with the society so Bobby must hide this from her. She also disapproves of his love interest Vicki Vallencourt (Fairuza Balk from "The Craft") who just recently got out of prison. Now Bobby must hide his girlfriend and the fact that he is playing football and going to college all from his mama.

For most of the movie I found the tackling somewhat funny, but eventually it got old and after that there isn't much else to keep your attention. It was sad that such a talented actress such as Bates would stoop so low as to play a southern mama living in a swamp with her only companion being a horse that drinks out of the toilet. Even Henry Winkler playing a pathetic coach with so many screws loose that I found it more disturbing than humorous.

It wasn't Adam Sandler that bothered me in this movie, it was the plot and the dumb humor. Though I will



Henry Winkler and Adam Sandler star in "The Waterboy"

admit there was just enough amusement throughout the film to keep me from getting up and leaving. All I could think as I walked out of the theater was that the idea of the movie was good, it just could have been made so much better. If you are a big Adam Sandler fan then you should go out and see it. Otherwise, if you are just going for the laughs, wait until it comes out on video.



Mood music: Tori Amos

by Elizabeth Pacheco

3 1/2 out of 5 stars

The new release by Tori Amos is an enticing CD to try when studying or relaxing. The CD is labeled "From the Choirgirl Hotel" and was released this year. Her music ranges from upbeat and fun songs, to music that is soft and sultry. Tori Amos has no difficulty in providing variety in this album. The topics she uses for her lyrics range from songs on love, God, sex, and death. Tori Amos' music is appealing and her voice is feminine and sexy. Her music provides the perfect mood for studying, relaxing, and intimacy. Her lyrics are also powerful and full of meaning. Some moving songs from the album are "Spark", "Jackie's Strength", and "Northern Lad". Tori Amos fans will enjoy this new and powerful album. It is a refreshing change from the meaningless array of music that has come out lately.

Letter to the Editor: An eye for an eye ideal

by Ajayi Harris

Reading Jessica's Roy's Eye for an Eye editorial makes me want to give her an eye for an eye rebuttal. It still boggles my mind when I hear people defending the death penalty. Roy's choice of a "rational" reason to defend the death under the "eye for an eye" argument seems highly dubious. Since she chooses a semi-religious argument, perhaps someone ought to look up that passage in the Bible where it talks about the 10 commandments. I have some other arguments against the penalty as well. Let me run through a couple categories I think are compelling:

Racism: The death penalty is inherently racist because a disproportionate number of blacks in the US are on death row.

Sociology: We teach kids that hurting people is improper behavior. But in Roy's world, kids should no longer follow this behavior.

Biology: Has somebody checked the evolutionary chart lately because I think humans are supposed to be rational, thinking creatures.

Math: There is no statistical evidence that shows that the death penalty deters people from killing other people.

Philosophy: Last I checked there weren't too many philosophers advocating the killing of another human being. In fact I think most were saying we need more love and compassion.

Before someone shouts "victims rights!" Take this into consideration. While it is unfortunate that a murderer chooses to kill somebody, but they also leave a wake of pain and grief upon the victim's families. Nonetheless, victims are not entitled to choose who lives and who dies. What this society and this world needs is more lovers and not haters.

Editor's Note:

Yes, I do agree with the eye for an eye ideal. I stress the word, "ideal." As I have said in my article, and will repeat again, "We can only hope the survivors of crimes gain a sense of vindication and the criminals are served with a sentence which is in accordance with their crimes."